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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR
WOMEN'S ISSUES

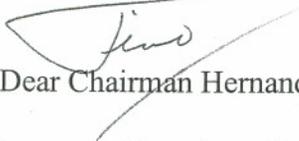
CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

March 7, 2005

Tino Hernandez
Chairman
New York City Housing Authority
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007



Dear Chairman Hernandez:

I am writing to call your attention to a disturbing situation at a public housing development in the Lower East Side, Baruch Houses. It has come to my attention that the sewer system for the 17 building complex routinely backs up causing fetid water to overflow into resident units and the lobbies, as well as flooding the basements.

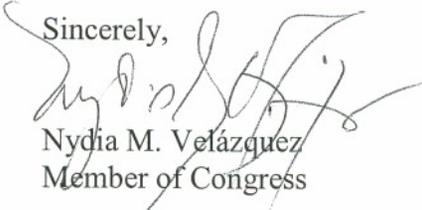
This poses a serious health risk to the more than 5,000 residents who live in Baruch Houses and potentially the residents of other NYCHA developments that may be facing similar circumstances. Furthermore, it is disturbing that reports indicate that the problem occurred because of haphazard repairs and inadequate maintenance.

While I fully understand the funding constraints NYCHA is operating under, the health and safety of residents cannot be jeopardized as difficult priority decisions are made with regards to maintenance and repairs.

I, therefore, ask that you immediately rectify this situation and provide my office with a plan for how you will prevent this from happening in this and the other developments NYCHA oversees.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to a quick resolution to the problem.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress